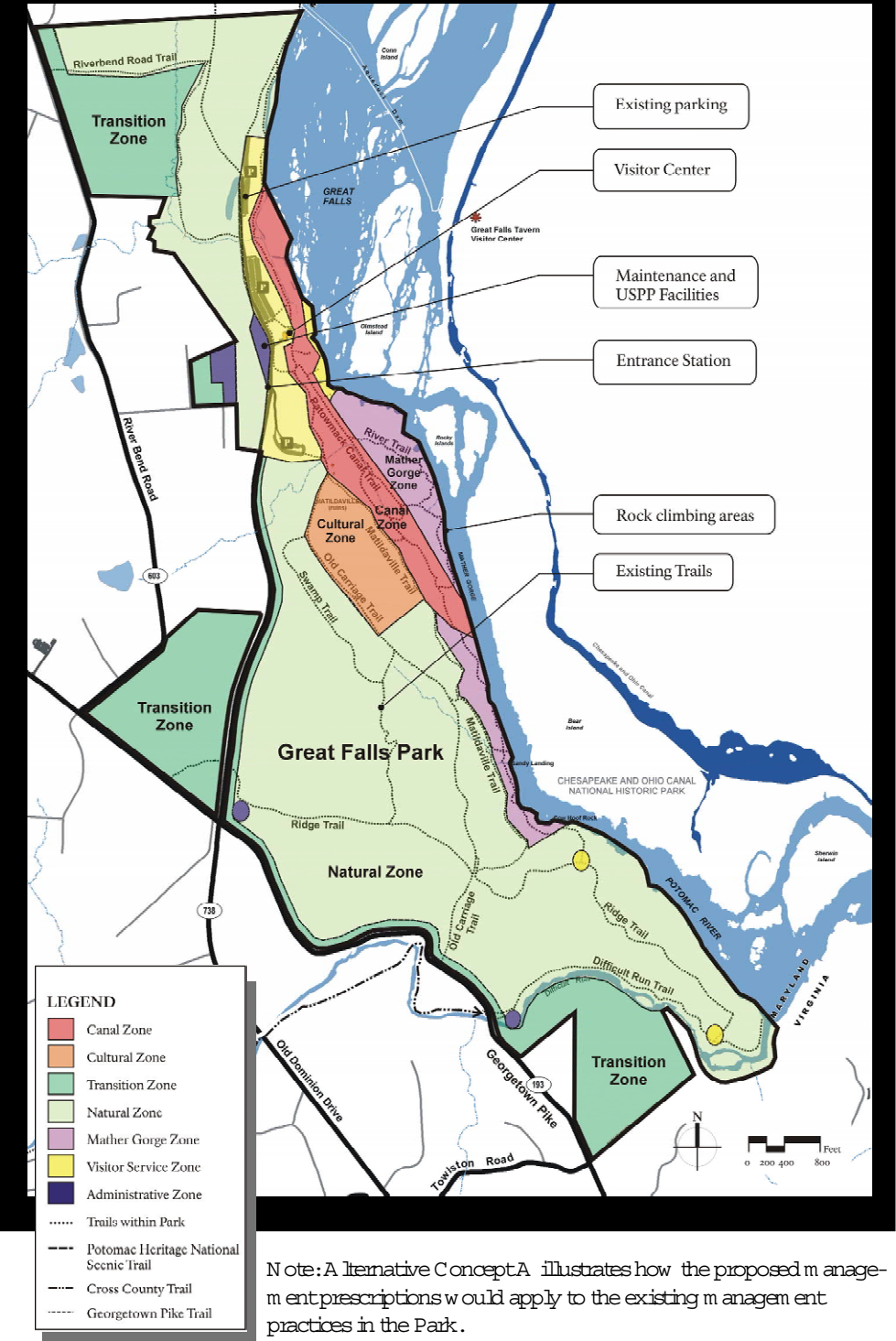


ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT A : Status Quo
Continue current management practices.



MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION ZONES

The following seven management prescription zones identify how various parts of the park could be managed. Each zone is based on desired visitor experiences, resource conditions, and the kinds of activities or facilities that would achieve the proposed conditions.

Canal Zone

Visitor Experience –Visitors would be offered opportunities to observe, and learn about the park’s significant cultural resources through wayside exhibits, formal tours and informally through regularly roving rangers. The probability of encountering other visitors, both individuals and groups, would be high.

Resource Condition or Character – Cultural sites, natural resources, visitors and trails would be highly managed to ensure preservation of sensitive cultural resources.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities – This zone includes significant cultural resources present in the park (including the Patowmack Canal, Matildaville, the Forge and the Mill sites). An unpaved, pedestrian trail system would provide access for visitors to observe the cultural resources. No administration or operational facilities would be constructed in these areas. Vehicular access for operations and emergency purposes would be provided such that the impact on cultural resources is minimal. Bike trails and horse- riding trails would not be permitted and there would be no areas designated for picnicking and incidental sports.

Cultural Zone

Visitor Experience –This zone would be located where cultural resources are present and are not included within the Canal Zone. There may be limited opportunities for visitors to experience the resources due to their fragile condition and the need to protect them. There would be some interpretation of the cultural resources. The probability of encountering other visitors, primarily individuals would be somewhat less than in the Canal Zone.

Resource Condition or Character – There would be a balance between management of cultural and natural resources with an emphasis on preservation of cultural resources.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities – This zone would include cultural resources that are not located within the Canal Zone and that may not require a comparable amount of active management for preservation. There would be pedestrian access within this zone, as well as some limited access for bikes and horses.

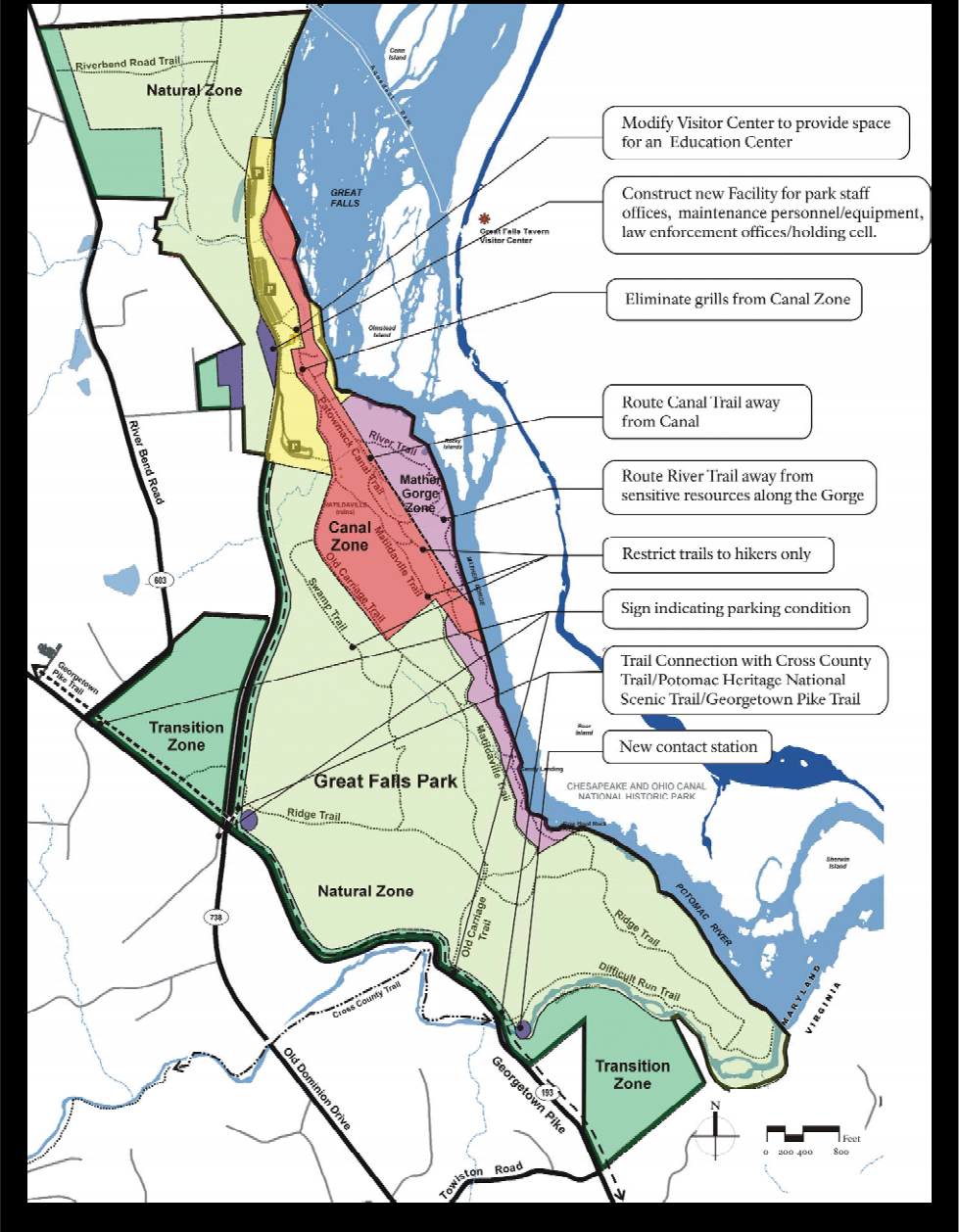
Natural Zone

Visitor Experience –Visitors may be offered an opportunity to pursue recreation activities such as hiking, horse riding and biking in a natural setting, if it is allowed in the specific alternative. Visitors would be directed to utilize and stay on designated trails. Interpretation opportunities would primarily focus on orienting the visitor to the history of the trail, its length, difficulty and location in the park. The probability of encountering other visitors would be moderate to low.

Resource Condition or Character –Areas would be managed with an emphasis on preserving the natural resources and settings including significant viewsheds. Cultural resources would be protected through preservation and stabilization. Management actions would focus on trail management, visitor/interpretation waysides and public safety efforts. (continued on the next page)

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT B: Resource Enhancement

Increase resource protection through directed preservation efforts and expansion of interpretive & educational opportunities of natural and cultural resources for visitors.



ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT C: Recreation Enhancement

Expand resource- based recreational opportunities while ensuring protection, and understanding of the park’s values.

